

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 3A, 3B, 3C, 4, 6, 7A, 7B, 7C 8A, 8B, 8C and 9. These sheets, which include Figs.. 3A, 3B, 3C, 4, 6, 7A, 7B, 7C, 8A,8B, 8C and 9, replace the original sheets including Figs. 3A, 3B, 3C, 4, 6, 7A, 7B, 7C 8A,8B, 8C and 9. In Figs. 3A, 3B, 3C, 4, 6, 7A, 7B, 7C, 8A, 8B, 8C has deleted reference designators 302, 401, 600, 702 803 900 and 901 which were not mentioned in the specification.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

### **REMARKS**

After the foregoing amendment, claims 5-6 and 11-18, as amended, are pending in the application. Claims 1-4 and 7-10 have been canceled. Claims 5, 6, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 18 have been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 5-6 and 11-18 are allowed. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment.

### **Objection to the Specification**

The Examiner objected to the specification for not providing support for the phrase " $2 \leq j \leq k$  in claim 16". Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

At page 3, lines 3-9 of the Preliminary Amendment filed on September 15, 2001, there is described a packet which contains routing information for traversing a network via a route determined by a sequence of  $k$  nodes (for support of the amendment see canceled claim 2). One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that each node along the route could be identified as a  $j$ th node where  $1 \leq j \leq k$ . In the present application the first node is identified as the ingress node and the last node is identified as the egress node (see page 3, lines 14-15).

Claim 16 is described at page 14, line 10 to page 15 line 11 and Fig. 7. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize from the description that the limitation in claim 16, which includes the  $2 \leq j \leq k$  applies to those nodes in a route that excludes the ingress node, i.e.  $j=1$ , and includes all the other nodes including the egress node, i.e.  $j=k$ . In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

### **Objections to the Drawings**

The Examiner objected to Figs. 3A, 3B, 3C, 4, 6, 7A, 7B, 7C, 8A, 8B, 8C and 9 for including reference characters which are not mentioned in the specification. Applicant has attached replacement pages for Figs. 3A, 3B, 3C, 4, 6, 7A, 7B, 7C, 8A, 8B, 8C and 9 for the Examiner's approval which have the superfluous reference characters deleted. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

**Amended claims 5, 6, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 18**

Claims 5, 6, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 18 have been amended to make the ranges of the affected parameters consistent with the ranges described in the specification.

**Conclusion**

Insofar as the Examiner's objections and rejections have been fully addressed, the instant application, including claims 5-6 and 11-18, is in condition for allowance and Notice of Allowability of claims 5-6 and 11-18 is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Date)

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